

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 SAM-01 ORM-02 DHA-02

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R 140935Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4910

INFO USUN NEW YORK 133

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 2465

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : PFOR, UN, TC

SUBJECT : PRE-31ST UNGA CONSULTATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 220772, (B) STATE 220773, (C) STATE 224557

SUMMARY: AS INSTRUCTED, CHARGE SEPT. 13 BRIEFED KEY/UAE MFA OFFICIALS ON USG VIEWS AND POSITIONS RE FORTHCOMING UNGA. AS ANTICIPATED THEY TENDED MORE TO ABSORB POINTS MADE RATHER THAN REACT TO THEM. THEY PRESENTED NO BURNING ISSUES FROM UAE POINT OF VIEW. THEY TOO HOPE FOR CONSTRUCTIVE RESULTS, BUT WE CAN HARDLY EXPECT THEM TO BE VERY ACTIVE OR PARTICULARLY TO GET OUT IN FRONT TOWARD THAT END. END SUMMARY.

1. CHARGE CALLED ON ABDULLA MAZRU'I, UNDER SECRETARY MINFOREIGN AFFAIRS SEPT. 13 TO DISCUSS POINTS RAISED REFS A AND B RE FORTHCOMING UNGA. NOT ONLY IS MAZRU'I RANKING MFA OFFICIAL CURRENTLY IN COUNTRY BUT HE WILL BE ACCOMPANING FONMIN SUWEIDI TO NEW YORK STAYING FOR AT LEAST FIRST SEVERAL WEEKS OF SESSION. MAZRU'I, WHO HAD REQUESTED THAT MEETING BE DEFERRED UNTIL 13TH IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO BRIEF HIMSELF, WAS JOINED IN
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SESSION BY DIRECTOR AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR POLITICAL

DEPT., AMERICAS DESK OFFICER, AND AMBASSADOR NATHER AL-OMERI, ADVISOR FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS.

2. CHARGE REVIEWED GENERAL USG OBJECTIVES AS PER PARA 4 REF A AND THEN TURNED TO KEY ISSUES (REF B). ON LATTER, AFTER BRIEF REFERENCE TO FACT PUERTO RICO NOW APPEARED UNLIKELY ARISE (REF C), CHARGE CONCENTRATED ON KOREA. HE NOTED THAT WE HAD OF COURSE DISCUSSED THIS SUBJECT ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS WITH UAEG, WE UNDERSTOOD ITS POSITION AND REASONS THEREFORE, BUT WE STILL URGED THAT UAEG CONSIDER SUBSTANCE OF KOREAN RESOLUTIONS BROUGHT BEFORE UNGA AND WHERE THEY LEADING. IT WAS ONE THING TO BE NEUTRAL BUT UAE COULD HARDLY ARGUE THAT ITS NON-PARTICIPATION HAD CONTRIBUTED TO NEUTRAL OR CONSTRUCTIVE RESOLUTION IN COLOMBO. CHARGE NOTED NUMBER OF RESERVATIONS EXPRESSED ON EXTREME LANGUAGE OF THAT RESOLUTION, STRESSING IN PARTICULAR THOSE OF ARAB STATES, AND EMPHASIZED POINT THAT SUCH LANGUAGE CAN HARDLY CONTRIBUTE TO SOLUTION OF PROBLEM. AS FOR UNGA, CHARGE MADE POINTS PARA 2.E. REF. B, NOTING IN PARTICULAR NK EXCLUSION OF ROK FROM PROPOSED NEGOTIATIONS, ROLE ARMISTICE MACHINERY HAD PLAYED IN DEFUSING RECENT SERIOUS SITUATION AND INCONGRUITY OF NK OBJECTING TO OUR TROOPS IN ROK WHILE HAVING ITS OWN BILATERAL SECURITY ARRANGMENTS. AS WE ANTICIPATED RESPONSE WAS MINIMAL. MAZRU'I, WHO HAS CONSISTENTLY BEEN SOMEWHAT OUT IN FRONT OF HIS GOVERNMENT IN HIS SYMPATHY FOR "OUR" SIDE OF KOREAN QUESTION, DID NOD AGREEMENT TO POINTS MADE RE ARMISTICE MACHINERY AND JUSTIFICATION OF TROOPS. BUT MAZRU'I IS NOT THE DECISION MAKER ON THIS ISSUE AND IS IN ANY CASE FULLY AWARE THAT UAE STANCE IS NOW WELL ESTABLISHED. IN SHORT, WE MUST EXPECT POLICY OF DSABSTENTION TO PREVAIL.

3. MIDDLE EAST NOT RAISED BY CHARGE BUT GIVEN PASSING MENTION BY MAZRU'I LATER IN CONVERSATION. QUESTION OF ISRAELI SUSPENSION NOT RAISED NOR DID CHARGE'S POINT RE TRYING AVOID COMPLICATIONS IN PATH FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS RESULT IN ANY REJOINDERS.

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4. TURNING TO OTHER IMPORTANT ISSUES SET FORTH REF A, CHARGE MADE POINTS AS PER THAT TEL ON (A) SOUTHERN AFRICA, (B) CYPRUS, (C) WESTERN SAHARA, (D) UNRWA, (E) IOPZ, (F) UN BUDGET, AND (G) EXTERNAL EVACUATION. OTHER ISSUES EITHER APPEARED TOO REMOTE FROM INTERESTS HERE (E.G. DISARMAMENT, UNCTAD IV) OR SUCH OBVIOUS NON-STARTERS (E.G. ZIONISM/RACISM) THAT THEY NOT RAISED.

5. AS FOR REACTIONS, SOUTHERN AFRICA AND UNRWA DREW GREATEST RESPONSE, ALTHOUGH MFA REPS ALSO CLEARLY INDICATED THAT POINTS ON WESTERN SAHARA VERY MUCH ALONG LINES UAEG'S OWN THINKING. ON SOUTHERN AFRICA, BOTH MAZRU'I AND AMBASSADOR AL-OMERI EXPRESSED AGREEMENT THAT IT WOULD BE DOMINANT ISSUE PARTICULARLY IN ABSENCE PROGRESS BY SECRETARY DURING HIS CURRENT TRIP. THEY EXPRESSED KEEN INTEREST AND OBVIOUS SUPPORT FOR THAT EFFORT AND WERE CLEARLY LOOKING FOR ASSURANCES THAT WE ANTICIPATED SUCCESS-SOMETHING WE IN NO POSITON TO PROVIDE. ON UNRWA, WHILE NOTING THAT UAEG HAD GIVEN ADDITIONAL FUNDS LAST YEAR, BOTH MAZRU'I AND AGAIN AL-OMERI EXPRESSED VIEW THAT WESTERN COUNTRIBS SHOULD DO MORE. AL-OMERI ARTICULATED POINT MORE CLEARLY CLAIMING THAT ZIONIST INFLUENCES WERE AT WORK IN EST MAINTAINING PALESTINIAN PROBLEM DID NOT EXIST, HENCE DIMINISHING SIGNIFICANCE OF FUNCTIONS OF UNWRA. CHARGE RESPONDED THAT CERTAINLY USG NOT DIMINISHING ITS EFFORTS AND WAS IN ADDITION URGING OTHERS, NOT JUST ARABS, TO SUPPORT UNWRA.

6. ASIDE FROM POINTS ALREADY CITED, MAZRU'I NOTED THAT UAE SOMEWHAT CONCERNED BY BANGLADESH'S INTENTION TO RAISE GANGES RIVER DISPUTE WITH INDIA IN UNGA. ASKING IF WE HAD ANY INFORMATION ON THIS, MAZRU'I EXPRESSED VIEW THAT ISSUE COMPLEX AND DIFFICULT AND COULD CAUSE PROBLEMS (READ, IT BE ISSUE DIFFICULT FOR UAE TO DUCK AND ONE ON WHICH IT WOULD NOT WISH TO TAKE SIDES). CHARGE NOTED THAT HE HAD NO DETAILED INFORMATION ON THIS USSUE, BUT IF MATTER COULD BE APPROACHED ON LOW KEY IN SPIRIT OF NEGOTIATION, AS PER OUR GENERAL FOCUS, THEN PERHAPS POSITIVE RESULTS COULD BE HOPED FOR. MAZRU'I ALSO ECHOED OUR GENERAL DESIRE FOR PROGRESS ON ECONOMIC ISSUES BUILDING

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ON BASE OF 7TH SPECIAL SESSION AND IN GENERAL SUPPORTED OUR HOPE FOR CONSTRUCTIVE, NON-CONFRONTATIONAL SESSION.

7. AS FINAL OBSERVATION, AL-OMERI ASKED ABOUT IMPACT OF PRESIDENTIAL CAMPGAIN ON US POSITIONS AT UNGA. CHARGE RESPONDED IN VEIN THAT WHILE ELECTION YEARS WERE, OF COURSE, SPECIAL IT WAS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT US PUBLIC OPINION CONCERNING UN AND ITS ACTIONS WAS A CONTINUING FORCE AND ONE TO WHICH IN DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY NOT ONLY CANDIDATES BUT THE USG RESPONDED ON CONTINUING BASIS. IN SHORT, GOVERNMENT POLICIES TO SOME DEGREE WILL REFLECT PUBLIC OPINION, AND THE UN COLLECTIVELY AND ITS INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS COULD NOT EXPECT THEM TO DO OTHERWISE.

8. COMMENT: IN GENERAL, AND AS EXPECTED, PRE-UNGA

"CONSULTATIONS" HERE WERE RATHER ONE SIDED. FROM UAE STANDPOINT, NOT PLANNING ACTIVE ROLE IN NEW YORK, THERE CLEARLY LITTLE POINT IN GETTING INTO DEBATE WITH USG REP EVEN ON ISSUES WHERE THEY FEEL STRONGLY (E.G. ZIONISM/RACISM) OR WHERE WE BOTH KNOW OUR POSITIONS WILL CONTINUE TO DIFFER (E.G. KOREA). BUT IN LARGE MEASURE, LACK OF VOCAL REACTION AND DEBATE, ALSO REFLECTS FACT THAT IN MANY RESPECTS OUR VIEWS ARE BROADLY IN TUNE. UAEG MAY NOT ALWAYS VOTE ITS CONVICTIONS, AND WHEN IT DOES THEY ARE SOMETIMES CONTRARY TO OURS. BUT IT DOES GENUINELY BELIEVE IN POLICY OF MODERATION, OF NEGOTIATION VER CONFRONTATION. IN SHORT, IT MAY NOT HELP US MUCH AT 31ST UNGA, BUT IT ALSO WON'T BE WORKING AGAINST US VERY OFTEN.
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